

Montana Laboratory Sentinel



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau
800-821-7284 www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

12/23/2011

ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS & CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID

Infection of the central nervous system (CNS) differs from other infections, since the infection site is separated from the rest of the body by the blood brain barrier (BBB), the very purpose of which is to make the brain impenetrable to most compounds. Therefore, the efficacy of an antimicrobial agent is dependent not only on the susceptibility of the infectious organism, but also on the ability of the agent to cross the BBB and penetrate the CNS. The CNS-penetration of drugs has been only minimally studied and is far from understood.

CLSI guidelines provide specific recommendations for the testing and reporting of antimicrobial susceptibilities on organisms isolated from cerebral spinal fluid.

“Warning”: The following antimicrobial agents should not be routinely reported for bacteria isolated from CSF that are included in this document. These antimicrobial agents are not the drugs of choice and may not be effective for treating CSF infections caused by these organisms (ie, the bacteria included in Tables 2A through 2J):

Agents administered by oral route only
1st- and 2nd-generation cephalosporins (except cefuroxime parenteral)
and cephamycins
clindamycin
macrolides
tetracyclines
fluoroquinolones



Additional guidance is provided for isolates of *H. influenzae* from cerebral spinal fluid: “Only results of testing with ampicillin, one of the third-generation cephalosporins, chloramphenicol, and meropenem should be reported routinely with CSF isolates of *H. influenzae*.”

A discussion of the survey question with references to CLSI guideline pages may be accessed [here](#).

COURIER PICK-UP

Due to the time-sensitivity of coliform water testing, we have arranged with courier pick-up locations to allow water operators to drop off samples for transport to the Environmental Section at the MT PHL. All that is asked of the pick-up locations is to receive the samples and place them in the appropriate location for pickup. There will be no extra charges incurred as a result of this service. If you have any questions regarding these arrangements, please call the Montana Public Health Laboratory at (800) 821-7284.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!

The Montana Public Health Laboratory is pleased to sponsor “Using CLSI Guidelines for Training and Competency Assessment” on February 29, 2012 in Billings, Montana. Nationally recognized quality management expert, Lucia Berte will present a follow-up to last summer’s successful “Using CLSI Guidelines in Laboratory Quality Management” workshop. CEU’s will be available. Early registration is advised. Registration forms may be accessed at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/lab/news.shtml> For additional information, contact [Jan Stetzer](#), 406-444-0695.

Barf-Humbug! Holiday Cookies, Latkes and Everyday Safe Egg Handling

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The Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section
may be reached 24/7 at (406) 444-0273.

CD-Epi Data can be found at:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/epidemiology/commun-disease-epi-reporting.shtml>